represented to the Government regarding decanalisation of export of sugar.

[English]

Minister's Conference

*564. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI :
SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether a conference of the State Food and Civil Supplies Ministers was held in New Delhi recently;

(b) if so, the matters discussed therein;

(c) the outcome thereof;

(d) the proposed prices and names of commodities likely to be supplied to the poor and the criteria for determining the eligibility; and

(e) the cost to the exchequer in terms of subsidies and administrative expenditure ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) A Conference of State Food & Civil Supplies Ministers was held in New Delhi on 7th August, 1996 on the subject "Streamlining the Public Distribution System with focus on Poor". The Conference unanimously endorsed the proposal for targetting the PDS on the poor and providing specially subsidised foodgrains to the population Below Poverty Line and recommended that the Central Government may bring in this targetted PDS into force as soon as possible.

(d) and (e) The details for streamlining the PDS accordingly are being worked out.

[Translation]

Distribution of Telephone Bills by Private Sector

*565. SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT :
SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the MTNL and Telecom Department have awarded contracts for packing and distribution of telephone bills to private sector;

(b) if so, the details alongwith terms and conditions thereof;

(c) whether the rates of contractors have been heavily raised in comparison to previous years;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the additional annual expenditure likely to be incurred by introducing the said scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Contracts have been awarded for packing and distribution of bills in MTNL, Mumbai and Delhi. Department of Telecom has awarded a contract for packing only of bills in J & K Circle.

(b) The details are as statements-I, II, and III respectively.

(c) The rates were raised following finalisation of tender in Mumbai. In J & K Circle packing of bills by private contractors has been introduced this year.

(d) MTNL, Mumbai revised the rates as a result of the tender.

(e) In MTNL Mumbai, the estimated additional annual expenditure is Rs. 11,40,000/-.

In J & K Circle (Department of Telecommunications), the estimated additional annual expenditure is Rs. 45000/-.

STATEMENT–I

DETAILS OF RATES PAYABLE TO CONTRACTORS FOR PACKING AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE BILLS IN RESPECT OF MUMBAI TELEPHONES

1. Mailing Agents

	(Rs. per thousand bills)	
	1994-95-96	**1996-97**
Single Page bill (Without enclosure)	Rs. 35.00	Rs. 50.00
With enclosure	Rs. 40.00	Rs. 60.00
Multi Page bill (Without enclosure)	Rs. 45.00	Rs. 60.00
With enclosure	Rs. 50.00	Rs. 70.00

+ Actual Postal Charges.

2. Private Couriers

For lifting the bills from Computer Cell and delivery at the subs. premises

For South Area	Rs. 1950.00	Rs. 1950.00	No Change
For West-III Area	Rs. 2750.00	Rs. 2750.00	